

February 2018

DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR

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The February prayers have been written by Rev. Randy Shrauner, Executive Minister

The Upper Room, a daily devotional guide for United Methodists, provides a devotional reading for each of the days of February that goes with each of the Scripture readings and prayers on this month's prayer calendar. The devotional for each day will enrich your quiet time with the Lord in the month of February.



CHURCH OF THE
SERVANT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>PRAYER WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE...</i></p> <p><i>PRAY ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!</i></p>				<p>1 <i>Isaiah 49:13-18</i> Lord, there are times during the dark moments of life when I fear I have been abandoned. Your voice seems inaudible and my prayers bounce off the ceiling as if it were made of brass. Strengthen my spirit so that I learn to trust your Word and not my feelings. Remind me that you will never forget your children.</p>	<p>2 <i>Matthew 28:16-20</i> Your instruction to me as a disciple and to us as your Church is straightforward, Go disciple. Go baptize. Go teach leading to obedience. So often, Jesus, we get lost in the weeds of life and follow paths and concerns far beyond your explicit instruction. As this new year begins, give us the will and the courage to focus on your priorities.</p>	<p>3 <i>Deuteronomy 31:1-8</i> Father, we often confuse your instruction "to be bold and courageous", as given to Joshua through Moses, to be a call for bravery in battle or in the face of the challenges he would face. But the broader story reveals that call is to be bold in obedience to you, and courageous in steadfast faithfulness to you. May I be "bold and courageous" as well.</p>
<p>4 <i>Exodus 14:9-18</i> There are seasons where it is easier to focus on who or what it is that might be chasing us, than on who it is that is leading us! Lord, forgive us our inability to remember all the wonders you have performed in our lives. Lock those images and that history into our hearts and minds so that we might have peace, no matter the momentary circumstances swirling around us.</p>	<p>5 <i>James 2:14-18</i> We are what we do, not what we say. Our actions betray the true nature of the spirit residing within us. Make me, Lord Jesus, a man whose life is consistent within and without. Build in me an undivided heart beating in synch with yours. May the words of my mouth and the actions that accompany them give glory to you, the God I love.</p>	<p>6 <i>Psalms 23:1-6</i> Father, there is great comfort to be found in the words of the Psalmist, but there is a challenging truth contained within these words as well. You, Lord, are my shepherd. It is you that chooses where I will lie down and find rest, not me. It is you who chooses where I will drink, and the paths I will take. I will trust in your direction, not my own.</p>	<p>7 <i>2 Corinthians 13:5-13</i> "Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves." Lord, Paul's instruction to me as a disciple is a bit of a shock as it points to the possibility of my <i>not</i> living within the faith. Hold a mirror before me and force me to see myself as I am, not as I imagine myself to be. Then, by your grace, may I be remade in your image as a child of the living God.</p>	<p>8 <i>Luke 16:1-13</i> Lord Jesus, the parable told in Luke 16 is a challenging one, but it asks me to see the world around me as it is rather than as I might hope it to be. What are the things in my life to which I assign value? Where is it that I find wealth and assets together? Guide me to define these desires through the economy of your Kingdom, rather than that of this world.</p>	<p>9 <i>2 Chronicles 3:1-17</i> As Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem, centuries worth of history and promises which had been made were coming to fruition. You had promised Abraham that you would be his God and that his inheritance would be very great. You had promised to give your people a place—a land of milk and honey. Remind us that we are a part of that promise.</p>	<p>10 <i>1 Corinthians 13:1-13</i> Less an instruction on romantic love between husband and wife and more a blueprint of how we, your body the Church, are to live in relationship to one another, your word in 1 Corinthians 13 speaks loudly to each of us today. Build in us a willingness to see the best, hope for the best, and graciously offer the best to the brothers and sisters you place around us.</p>
<p>11 <i>1 Thessalonians 5:12-18</i> Lord, your word is quick to remind us that we have a responsibility to one another; we are a Church, not a random group of individuals. We are to admonish and encourage, help the weak and be patient with all, seeking the best possible good for each of your children. Press me to live into the responsibilities of life within your Kingdom.</p>	<p>12 <i>Luke 5:1-11</i> Father, I often go through my day enmeshed in chores and duties that are staggeringly familiar - responsibilities that, in many ways, I could accomplish with my eyes closed. Then comes that moment where you call me to do it all again, but under your direction and in the power you provide. The end result could not be more different. Teach me to follow you in even the simplest of tasks.</p>	<p>13 <i>Psalms 46:1-11</i> The news reports of the morning were filled with stories of strife and the rumor of wars. Tensions within our own borders and indeed around the globe threaten to shatter the peace we hold so precious. Father, remind us that even in those moments when "the nations are in an uproar" and the "kingdoms totter", your word abides and the Lord of hosts is with us.</p>	<p>14 <i>Matthew 5:1-17</i> Blessed are the poor...Blessed are those who mourn...Blessed are the meek, the hungry, and those who thirst for righteousness...But as I look at the world around me and examine the views that I hold of others and myself, do I believe your Word to me in Scripture to be true? Forgive me Lord, when I place my own understanding above yours. Remake my heart as you will.</p>	<p>15 <i>Ezekiel 47:1-12</i> Your Word in Scripture is filled with stories of creation and un-creation; a world created by your will, O God, where the work of your hand was good; but, a creation that soon enough was marred by sin and the sinful behavior which always follow in its wake. You have given the prophet Ezekiel a vision of creation restored where fresh water flows eternally. May that day come soon!</p>	<p>16 <i>Psalms 111:1-10</i> "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding." Father, when I read these words I am reminded I am a man under your authority. It is you who works to establish my footsteps and the boundaries of my life. Guide me to trust the wisdom of your vision over and above my own shortsightedness.</p>	<p>17 <i>1 Samuel 26:1-12</i> Lord, David was a man whose heart and vision were shaped by you. Even during moments of great peril as a frantic King Saul sought to end his life, David refused to raise his hand against the man you had made King. Rather than rationalizing and working to justify his own actions, David made the conscious decision to trust you. May the God who delivered David, deliver me as well.</p>
<p>18 <i>Matthew 13:1-28</i> The Parable of the Sower is rich with meaning and significance. But I wonder, Lord, if I mute its power by interpreting it solely on an external basis rather than seeing those soils—hard or rocky, weed-choked or fertile—as not each being present within my own heart. Father, break up my hard heart. Clear the rocks and mow the weeds in my spirit. I want to be good dirt.</p>	<p>19 <i>Philippians 3:1-14</i> There are many things I can hope for in the course of my life; many things to which I might aspire. But the apostle Paul's single burning goal is to know you, Jesus. His one hope is to share in all aspects of your life through the power of the resurrection. Father, I ask that you would work in me to parse and prune my ambitions to mirror those of Paul.</p>	<p>20 <i>Matthew 6:25-34</i> I chuckle at myself when I recognize your word to me in Matthew 6 is not the promise of deliverance from trouble, but rather the instruction to only wrestle with the troubles of today because they will be trouble enough! Remind me always, Lord, that your presence with me, and love for me, transcends any momentary circumstance.</p>	<p>21 <i>Philippians 4:4-9</i> Father, television news anchors and internet headlines scream for our attention; and the stories they tell are rarely true or honorable, and even less likely to be just and pure, pleasing or commendable. I ask that your voice within each of us be loud enough to overcome the surrounding rancor. May we be a people who look for and celebrate the right sort of things!</p>	<p>22 <i>Mark 12:41-44</i> The widow gave out of scarcity, while I give out of excess. The widow gave while uncertain of her next meal, no shelter from the cold, threadbare clothes upon her back, while I give with my belly full and a fireplace crackling. And yet, Lord, which of us is truly the richer? Open my eyes to the truth of your Kingdom and an economy of generosity.</p>	<p>23 <i>1 Corinthians 12:12-20</i> "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good..." Help me recognize that the gifts I have been given - gifts of a strong and healthy body, a quick and capable mind, a network of friends and family - are not necessarily for my benefit as much as they are for the people you have placed around me. We have been blessed so we might be a blessing.</p>	<p>24 <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i> Lord, your plans for us rarely unfold as we might expect them to play out. Joseph might have thought his life, his wife, and his family would look like so many others around him. But in your wisdom a different path unfolded before him. To his credit, Joseph trusted your word to him and stepped forward in faith. May the witness of my life be no different.</p>
<p>25 <i>Psalms 126:1-6</i> Lord, in a world of constant change where even the ground beneath my feet can shake, you alone are constant. In those moments when my heart wavers and my spirit is overcome by doubt, allow your voice to carry through the darkness. Remind me of your promise to abide, and of the truth that you are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.</p>	<p>26 <i>Mark 9:14-29</i> "I believe, Lord! Help my unbelief!" Is there one among us, Father, who does not recognize within themselves this plaintive cry? I am such a confused jumble of faith and doubt, strength and crippling weakness, hope and despair. You know this about me and still you call me beloved child. You see this division and still you remain by my side. By your faith may mine be made whole.</p>	<p>27 <i>Exodus 16:1-15</i> Quail in the evening and Manna from heaven with the morning dew. Lord, your provision for your people continues unabated. Open my eyes to the ways and means in which you sustain me. So often I become blind to your hand or crudely assume what I have is solely the result of my work and ability. Let my heart be filled with gratitude and my lips shout your praise.</p>	<p>28 <i>Matthew 18:1-3</i> Lord, we are obsessed with status and ranking. From our favorite football teams to our class rank, we want to know who is number one. The cars we drive, the clothes we wear, our address and our zip codes are often not so subtle reminders of how we measure by the standards of the world. Forgive us this sin. May we become simple and open as children before you.</p>			